

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
Saturday, January 30, 2010  
8:30 – 11:00 a.m.  
Gross Family Board Room, 500 McNamara Alumni Center**

Board Members Attending

Adams Loyd, Susan  
Anderson, Jan McKenzie - phone  
Beniak, Judy  
Blissenbach, Henry  
Brus, Leah  
Carlson, Margaret  
Carthaus, Marcia – phone  
du Bois, Jim  
Givens, Archie  
Hallin, Gayle  
Himle, Karen  
Horsager, Kent  
Johnson, Susan  
Lichty, Marshall  
Lucas, Peggy  
McDonald, Daniel  
McLeod, Mary  
Meyer, Janice  
Newell, Rich  
Omlie, Jo Ann  
Peterson, Debra  
Pinkney, Beth  
Reed, Maureen  
Reichl, Lorna  
Schott, Patrick - phone  
Strain, Paul

Thacker, Kipling  
Thompson, Paul  
Tuzcu, Ertugrul  
Ulsaker Wiese, Sandra  
Welshons, Bonnie  
Williams, Todd

Board Members Unable to Attend

Cheung Ho, Yvonne  
Cunningham, John  
Finsness, Lisa  
Joselyn, Bernadine  
Kremers, Kristi  
Lahammer, Mary  
Lanphere, Jane Wildung  
Mooty, Bruce  
Mulder, Jim  
Oakes, J. Michael  
Page, Alison  
Schultz, Martin  
Stein, Robert  
Zweig, Ted

UMAA Staff Attending

Coffer, Curtis  
Isaak, Ruth  
Rader, Bruce  
Shortridge, Julie

**Presidents Report**

Givens welcomed board members and introduced Bob Burgett, Vice President of Development for the University of Minnesota Foundation and Carolyn Buzza, Associate VP of Marketing and Communications for the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

Givens reviewed January activities. He represented the Alumni Association at the Southwest Florida Minnecollege in Naples, Florida. This event informed the 100 attendees on health care topics. The January 27 legislative briefing had a record attendance of 400 with board member Mary Lahammer addressing the group on the details of capitol advocacy. Attendees then wrote letters and made calls in support of the University's capital request.

Givens said that the retirement festivities for Margaret Carlson, an open house on January 26 and a January 28 evening dinner event, were festive events that showcased the impact not only of Carlson but of

the Alumni Association in general. He said they were a fitting tribute to Carlson's accomplishments and gave her many friends the chance to wish her well.

### **Consent Agenda**

Givens directed board attention to the consent agenda which included the December 5, 2009 National Board minutes, November 30, 2009 internal Financial Statements, membership report, bi-monthly alumni survey results and committee reports.

**MOTION:** Approve items on the Consent Agenda as submitted  
*APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY*

### **Finance Report**

Secretary-treasurer Kent Horsager and Curtis Coffey, CFO, informed board members that the Alumni Association's 2009 tax returns and Charitable Organization Annual Report had been approved by the Finance and Audit committee. The full return is available for board members to view at their request.

The Finance and Audit committee has revised the Alumni Association's Policy on Invested Funds and recommends its approval by the National Board of Directors. The resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on January 14. The policy was updated to reflect the reclassification of the August Wilson Scholarship fund from true endowments to board restricted due to the new accounting standard ESP 117-1 adopted in the FY09 audit and also clarify fiscal (rather than calendar) year-end's asset value be used in budgeting annual operating support from the Strategic Opportunity Fund.

**MOTION:** Approve the revisions to the Alumni Association's Policy on Invested Funds  
*APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY*

Horsager also presented the recommendation to the national board that the UMAA's Chief Executive Officer serve as UMAA's representative on the University Gateway Board of Directors. That is currently Margaret Carlson but will be her successor upon her retirement.

**MOTION:** Approve current UMAA Chief Executive Officer be one of the two Alumni Association representatives on the University Gateway Board of Directors.  
*APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY*

### **University Report**

President Bruininks noted that this was the third time he had spoken to this group this week, including the Legislative Briefing, at Margaret Carlson's fabulous party and at today's meeting.

President Bruininks reported that the daunting challenges in today's economy have created "the new normal" of reduced higher education funding from the state. He reminded the board of the past consolidation of colleges and departments that was an outcome of strategic planning in past years and that the Faculty Senate supported those decisions on a 120-3 vote. He indicated that more changes are ahead for the University, but that it's not just about cutting and consolidating, but also maintaining aspirational new initiatives. He mentioned specifically the biomedical discovery district, an example of an aspirational concept.

President Bruininks identified other key successes: the quadrupling of the four-year graduation rate; 150 merit scholars accepted to the U this year compared to a historic average of 20-30 per year; \$600 million in sponsored funding and a dramatically changed and improved student profile.

He indicated that the University must reinvent what it means to be a land grant university in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The state was founded in 1857 with grades 1-8 education as a constitutional state obligation. Later that was extended to K-12. President Bruininks said that in today's economy that should extend to higher education. Bruininks said that alumni are the heart and soul of the university. He urged the board to remind others that a strong University is necessary for a vibrant and growing economy.

He urged board members to remember that it is critical to protect the University's state funding base and build for the future. He noted that every \$1 of state funding that was maintained would require \$22 in private money if it had to be replaced. He urged board members to encourage their legislators to mitigate cuts and support capital improvements through the capital bonding bill.

Bruininks also updated the board on the recent suit that the University had filed against the Metropolitan Council in order to demand resolution to possible impact on research facilities located near Washington Avenue and the train's route. With electromagnetic waves reaching out 250 feet from the train, the problem is real and must be mitigated. Important research laboratories in close proximity to the light rail transit line should not be compromised. He noted that one laboratory alone was worth \$100 million dollars and hundreds of businesses were dependent on it.

The president again reiterated that the University is very supportive of mass transit but can't ignore the possibility of multi-million dollar impacts on the U's research labs. He said that although the University had never missed a meeting or the opportunity to work with the Metropolitan Council to find a solution, they felt the suit was necessary to get attention to the dilemma. However, he said that he felt a solution was possible.

### **CEO Report**

Carlson thanked Vice President Susan Adams Loyd for her efforts to engage Katie Couric as an annual meeting speaker. She said that it was an exciting announcement to be made at her farewell dinner. Carlson will now work on securing planes for Couric's transportation and sponsors for the event. She urged board members to offer possible sponsor possibilities and to consider buying a table of ten to support the event.

She showed photos of the Legislative Briefing and her farewell events. She thanked the various speakers at the January 26 Open House and January 28 Recognition and Farewell dinner. They included President Bruininks, Susan Hagstrum, Bob Stein and Joel Maturi plus current board members, Bruce Mooty, Archie Givens, Mary McLeod and Maureen Reed. She noted that the events were memorable and thanked the group for the extraordinary recognition.

She said that she will be graduating to a new career but still higher education-related. She will be consulting for a nationally known company, Bentz, Whaley, Flessner, advising on strategic planning, advocacy and grassroots activism for other major universities and non-profit organizations.

### **Search Committee Report**

Co-chair Maureen Reed informed board members that a second round of interviews had been conducted and the search was nearing the finalist stage. She said that the holidays had delayed the process but the chairs feel there is a possibility of identifying a candidate by mid-March. She urged board members to call either herself or Co-Chair Bruce Mooty with questions.

### **Knowledge Transfer**

President-elect Ertugrul Tuzcu is chair of the Knowledge Transfer Committee. He heads a committee consisting of Archie Givens, Susan Adams Loyd, Mary McLeod, Karen Himle, Kip Thacker, and Bonnie

Welshons. Each committee member will assist in the process of assisting the new COE learn about the various topics that have been identified as key areas of knowledge necessary for the new CEO's success.

Kathy Hagen, K.L. Hagen Intellectual Capitol Strategies, Margaret Carlson, and Tuzcu gave a demonstration of a Q&A session with Carlson to illustrate how interviews will be conducted with Carlson about various topics as part of transferring her knowledge to the new CEO. The topic was the Statewide Speakers Tour.

At each session, retiring CEO Margaret Carlson will describe the situation as she first experienced it, the steps taken, people involved, desired outcome, actual outcome, impact and the strategic lessons that may need to be considered in the future. There will be a written summary for each meeting.

Submitted by Ruth Isaak  
Senior Director, Board and Special Events

*for*

Kent Horsager, Secretary-Treasurer